

The Town of Brookline completed training our fifth Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class this past December. The Brookline CERT program, part of the Federal emergency Management Agency's Citizen Corp Program, helps train residents to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in our community.

When emergencies occur, CERT members can give critical support to first responders, provide immediate assistance to victims, and organize spontaneous volunteers at a disaster site. CERT members can also help with non-emergency projects that help improve the safety of the community. The Brookline CERT has come out for a variety of emergencies over the last several year - [view complete list](#) . The CERT concept was developed and implemented by the Los Angeles City Fire Department in 1985. FEMA made this training available nationally in 1993. Since this time, CERT programs have been established in more than 340 communities in 45 states.

The Town of Brookline's CERT team now consists of 75 trained and dedicated volunteers who are willing to assist emergency response personnel in times of crisis. CERT trainees receive a 10 week training program that includes emergency response procedures, the Incident Command System (ICS), the National Incident Management System (NIMS), basic fire suppression, CPR/AED and first aid, Red Cross Shelter Operations, avian flu awareness, and other skills that can be utilized to assist emergency responders during a critical incident. To complete an application, [click here](#) .

Contact: Officer Casey Hatchett at 617-730-2734 or Casey_Hatchett@town.brookline.ma.us for more information about the Brookline CERT.

